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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Participates in the 20th ILO American Regional Meeting in Punta Cana

Belmopan, October 15, 2025.

The Government of Belize joined delegates from across the Americas at the 20th American Regional Meeting (AmRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), held from October 1-3, 2025, under the theme Advancing Decent Work, Social Justice, and Inclusive Development.

Belize's delegation was led by Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour, and Local Government, accompanied by Mr. Valentino Shal, Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Rissela Dominguez-Patt, Labour Commissioner. Representing employers was Ms. Kim Aikman, Chief Executive Officer of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), while Ms. Ella Waight, President of the National Trade Union Congress of Belize (NTUCB), represented workers.

The tripartite meeting brought together over 300 participants, including ministers, senior officials, and leaders of workers' and employers' organizations, to discuss key issues shaping the world of work and to set shared priorities for the future of decent work in the region.

At the conclusion of the meeting, delegates adopted the Punta Cana Declaration, a landmark commitment by governments, employers, and workers to promote democracy, peace, social dialogue, and decent work as pillars of sustainable and inclusive development in the Americas.

The Declaration identifies key regional priorities for the ILO and its constituents, including:

- Job creation and social protection for all;
- Strengthening democratic institutions and respect for fundamental rights;
- Promoting sustainable enterprises and a just transition toward resilient societies;
- Advancing gender equality, living wages, and national care policies; and
- Supporting the transition from informal to formal employment.

The Punta Cana Declaration aligns with the ILO's Strategic Plan for 2026–2029 and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, reaffirming the importance of tripartism and social dialogue in addressing challenges such as informality, inequality, technological change, and climate impacts on employment.

Belize's participation in this high-level forum reflects the country's ongoing commitment to advancing decent work, strengthening social dialogue, and aligning national policies with the global Decent Work Agenda. The outcomes of the ILO meeting will help shape Belize's actions and policies under its Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2024–2029, as well as other national projects aimed at improving jobs, working conditions, and social justice.

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For more information, please contact:

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